

LIBRARY

Wilmslow
Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1946.

WILMSLOW.

5th November, 1947.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Wilmslow
Urban District Council.**

Mr. CHAIRMAN, Mrs. EVANS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present herewith my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending 31st December 1946, together with that of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The Report deals with this particular year, and is therefore not as extensive as last year's report which collated the details for the years 1939-1945, giving the figures which had been suppressed during the war years.

Unfortunately, there are still the effects of the war to contend with, but we have been fortunate in having a full staff for the complete year.

The maternal death is the first we have had since 1939. The birth rate is slightly lower, the death rate slightly higher, and the infantile mortality much lower than in 1945, but the variation in all cases is such as can be explained by " chance " having in view the size of the population. The incidence of infectious disease was low in common with the rest of the country.

I wish to express my thanks to my staff for the work done, and to other officials of the council for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

DAVID G. ANDERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :

D. G. ANDERSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

G. H. LANCASTER, CERT. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.*

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

T. B. TREMETHICK, CERT. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.†

* Holds the Special Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute for the inspection of meat and other foods.

† Obtained the Special Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute for the inspection of meat and other foods during the year.

Clerical :

Medical Officer's Office :

Miss E. M. Wood (to 15th August)

Miss N. King (returned from H.M. Forces 16th August resigned
2nd November)

Mrs. E. D. Somerville (from 3rd November)

Sanitary Inspector's Office :

Mrs. G. Bennett (temporary to April 1946)

Miss M. Fletcher (returned from H.M. Forces May 1946)

Medical Officer's Office :

TOWN HALL, BRUNTWOOD, CHEADLE, Cheshire.
(Tel. GATley 3241)

Sanitary Inspector's Office :

GREEN HALL, WILMSLOW.
(Tel. Wilmslow 2275)

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	7,705
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid 1946) ..	15,540
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to rate books	4,955
Rateable Value (end of 1946)	£152,344
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated)	£616

Social Conditions : The district, where built up, is almost entirely residential, but there is a very considerable area which is rural in character.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR (after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General).

Live Births.	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Total	243	117	126
Legitimate	235	112	123
Illegitimate	8	5	3
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..			15.6
Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births			33

Still Births.	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Total	10	4	6
Legitimate	9	4	5
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			39.5
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..			0.64

Deaths (All Causes).	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
	183	81	102
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..			11.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Death rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.</i>
No. 29—Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	—	—
No. 30—Other Maternal Causes ..	1	1.2
Total Maternal Causes	1	1.2

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Total	4	3	1
Legitimate	4	3	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	16
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	17
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	—

Comparison with England and Wales.

	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Death Rate.</i>	<i>Maternal Mortality.</i>	<i>Infant Mortality.</i>
Wilmslow Urban District..	15.6	11.8	1.2	16
England and Wales ..	19.1	11.5	1.4	43

Deaths from certain Special Causes :—

Cancer (all ages) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	32
Measles (all ages) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	—
Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	..	..	..	..	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	—
Influenza .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1
Pneumonia (all ages) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	7
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary (all ages)	..	..	..	..	6

There have not been any cases of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area. There is no evidence of any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Staff.

A list of the staff is given at the beginning of the Report.

Duties :—

The Medical Officer of Health is restricted from private practice, and is Medical Officer of Health to the Urban Districts of Alderley Edge, Cheadle and Gatley, and Wilmslow. He is also Medical Adviser to the North Cheshire Joint Hospital Board and, by arrangement with the Cheshire County Council, Clinical Medical Officer to certain of the County Council Child Welfare Centres.

Both Sanitary Inspectors are full time in the employment of the Council.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector is also Rodent Officer by arrangement with the County Council, and Inspector under the Petroleum Acts. He is responsible for the removal and disposal of house refuse, including salvage.

(b) Laboratory Facilities.

Examinations of pathological specimens necessary for the detection and control of infectious disease are undertaken at the University of Manchester Public Health Laboratory (now one of the new Regional Public Health Laboratories) at the Stockport Infirmary Pathological Department, and at the Pathological Laboratory, Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport. The exceptions are :—

- (a) Virulence tests. These are carried out at Manchester.
- (b) Sputum tests. These are carried out at the Cheshire County Council Laboratories, Chester.
- (c) Wasserman tests. These are carried out under County Council arrangements at Manchester.

The costs of all examinations for the diphtheria bacillus are met by the Council, and of all other examinations where the investigation is required for the detection or control of infectious disease.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| (c) Ambulance facilities. | } | No changes from
arrangements in
Report for 1943. |
| (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics. | | |
| (e) Nursing in the home. | | |
| (f) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary. | | |

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(a) Water Supply.

The water is supplied by the Stockport Corporation Water Department, and the supply has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. No bacteriological examination has been made by this Authority during the year, but weekly samples are taken by the Water Department of the filtered and treated water for examination and of the raw water monthly, for chemical and bacteriological examination.

I am indebted to Mr. Dearden, the Engineer of the Water Department, Stockport, for the following information :—

“ The supply to Wilmslow is from the Goyt Valley source, which is near Buxton, and is from upland sources. The boreholes at Wilmslow have not been used for some time, but are kept as a standby supply. The service reservoir for the Goyt supply is at High Lane, Marple.

The analyses are taken as the water is put into supply from the works and there has been no individual sampling from the main.

There is no liability to plumbo-solvent action, the total hardness being 4.9.”

Where well water has been found to be unfit and other sources are at present not available, the occupants have been warned to boil all water before it is consumed.

60 Houses are not supplied from the public mains, and there are 4,955 houses on the rate books.

Three houses are supplied from main standpipes.

A scheme for extension of the water mains has been passed and when it is completed every house within a reasonable distance of a public road could be connected to the mains at reasonable cost.

(b) Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no expansion here other than that required for new housing sites.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This is fully dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, but it is regrettable that we have not been able to maintain a fortnightly removal because of labour difficulties and the absence of a reserve vehicle, the latter difficulty has just been remedied.

I would draw attention to the fact that the pail closets are now being emptied twice weekly instead of weekly, which is very desirable, but only a stop-gap until proper sewerage can be provided.

(d) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report is again given at the end of this Report, and it will be noted that the total number of inspections has increased from 1,183 to 2,949. This is a reflection of the fact that there was an additional Sanitary Inspector during the whole year.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is to be congratulated on the fact that it was not necessary to issue Statutory Notices except in the case of houses, all other defects being remedied on Informal Notices.

(e) Disinfestation.

Forty rooms and 17 houses were treated for the destruction of various insect pests. There were three cases of bed-bug infestation. The method of treatment was : Spraying with a D.D.T. preparation, and this appears to have been successful. There was no case of bug infestation of Council Houses.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

Existing Houses.

Action during the year was mainly under the Public Health Acts, though in a small number of cases action was taken under the Housing Act. Informal Notice only was required except in 13 cases under the Public Health Acts, when Statutory Notices were served and complied with.

New Houses.

COUNCIL.

Houses completed : Permanent	..	..	..	12
Temporary	..	..	..	33
Houses under construction : Permanent	..	..	..	148
Temporary	..	..	..	7
Houses authorised but not yet commenced	..	..	..	8
Total				208

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Houses completed	..	..	..	..	57
Houses under construction	..	..	..	..	33
Houses for which licences had been issued but not yet commenced	..	..	..	..	—
Total				..	90

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

A full report is given by the Sanitary Inspector. There has been an improvement in the result of samples and the proportion of pasteurised milk consumed in the district is increasing. It is interesting to note that in the examination for tuberculosis the three "positive" results were all in accredited milk ; this supports the view that all milk should be pasteurised.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

No change.

(c) Adulteration, Etc.

The Authority for this is the County Council, and I am indebted to the District Inspector, Mr. T. L. E. Gregory, for the following information :—

Year ending 31st December, 1946, 28 samples of milk were taken and none reported against ; 18 samples of other foods were taken and one was reported against.

The sample reported against was one of " Indian Brandee," deficient in chloroform to the extent of 50 per cent. Manufacturers cautioned (15-7-46).

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(a) General.

The following table gives the number of cases of each disease notified during the year. The number of original notifications is given and also the number after correction of the diagnosis by the attendant Medical Practitioner, or in view of subsequent history in hospital.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Civilian.</i>		<i>Non-Civilian.</i>	
	<i>Original.</i>	<i>Corrected.</i>	<i>Original.</i>	<i>Corrected.</i>
Scarlet Fever ..	5	5	32	32
Diphtheria	3	2	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	1	1	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia	7	7	3	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	3	3
Dysentery	1	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	2	—	—
Measles	50	50	4	4
Whooping Cough ..	9	9	—	—
	—	—	—	—
Total	79	78	42	42
	—	—	—	—

The non-civilian figures are given for the first time.

The total incidence is the lowest since 1939, when, however, measles and whooping cough were only notifiable from October.

Of the two diphtheria cases, in which the diagnosis was confirmed, one was a girl of 18 who was not diagnosed until she had been ill for several days ; she was probably infected by her brother who had come home on leave from the Rhine Army. She had been immunised while at school and made a complete recovery.

The other was a girl of nine who was an inmate of an institution. The parents had refused to consent to her immunisation.

The case of dysentery was an "Amoebic" dysentery, and the infection had been contracted while on active service. The man had been discharged from the Army and the stools were still "positive."

The case of paratyphoid was one in which the infection had taken place while the patient was on a pleasure cruise.

(b) **Tuberculosis.**

The following table gives the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the year :—

	<i>Respiratory.</i>			<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
New Cases (<i>i.e.</i> , Primary notifications including Armed Forces' Discharges)	5	—	5	3	2	5
Deaths	4	2	6	1	—	1

(c) **Laboratory Examinations.**

The following table shows the specimens dealt with at the various laboratories :—

				<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>
Diphtheria .. ..	..	..	..	0	38
Haemolytic Streptococci .. ..	..	..	..	3	8
Sputum .. ..	..	..	..	4	42

(d) **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

The following table shows the progress of diphtheria immunisation in this district from 1939, when the scheme was commenced, to the end of the year. It is known that there is a very considerable number of children who have been immunised privately.

Age in years on 31st Dec. of the correspond- ing year.	DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. WILMSLOW U.D. Persons inoculated each year from 1939 - 1946.								
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	
0	1	—	2	12	1	1	1	—	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st December, 1946. 449
1	12	24	64	90	74	109	85	80	
2	13	39	46	40	22	21	26	18	
3	11	39	20	30	8	1	14	2	
4	2	37	10	14	8	1	4	3	
5	11	45	26	21	3	3	3	1	Total inoculated aged 5—14 years on 31st December, 1946 1,025
6	3	47	18	11	4	3	10	1	
7	8	60	9	16	9	3	11	1	
8	5	84	3	7	2	3	11	1	
9	2	67	5	4	1	1	8	—	
10	4	75	4	5	2	1	1	—	
11	3	59	1	2	1	3	2	2	
12	1	68	5	6	1	2	6	—	
13	—	40	3	2	1	—	3	1	Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st Dec. 1946 365
14	—	7	1	—	3	—	2	1	
15 and over	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	
Total each year	76	691	217	261	141	152	190	111	Grand Total 1939 - 46 1839

(In calculating the totals at the end of 1946 no account is taken of deaths which may have occurred since immunisation).

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS (1946).

No.	Cause of Death	M	F
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
3	Scarlet fever	—	—
4	Whooping cough	—	—
5	Diphtheria	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	4	2
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	1	—
8	Syphilitic diseases	—	1
9	Influenza	—	1
10	Measles	—	—
11	Acute poliomyelitis & polioencephalitis..	—	—
12	Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—
13	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesopha- gus (M) Cancer of uterus (F) ...	2	4
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	1
15	Cancer of breast	—	6
16	Cancer of all other sites	8	10
17	Diabetes	—	—
18	Intracranial vascular lesions	11	17
19	Heart disease	21	26
20	Other diseases of circulatory system...	5	8
21	Bronchitis	1	2
22	Pneumonia	5	2
23	Other respiratory diseases	1	1
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	—	1
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	—	—
26	Appendicitis	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases	4	1
28	Nephritis	2	3
29	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ...	—	—
30	Other maternal causes	—	1
31	Premature birth	1	—
32	Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases	2	1
33	Suicide	—	1
34	Road traffic accidents	3	1
35	Other violent causes	1	1
36	All other causes	6	11
	All causes ...	81	102

Note.—The number given refers to the Registrar General's Short List based on the fifth (1938) Revision of the International List of Causes of Death.

WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Greenhall,
Wilmslow.

1st July, 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1946.

I have the honour to present my report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1946.

The number of inspections made is more than double that of the previous year. This was made possible because no changes took place in the staff of the Department during the year, and as a result continuity of service was maintained. Some of the figures given below are exceptionally high because they include visits which were made to the homes of applicants for Council houses and to premises where licences were required for alterations or essential repairs.

A considerable amount of time was also spent in making enquiries for the Medical Officer of Health in connection with the diphtheria immunisation scheme.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

<i>Nature of Inspections.</i>	<i>No. of Visits.</i>	<i>Informal Notices Served.</i>	<i>Informal Notices Complied with.</i>	<i>Statutory Notices Served.</i>	<i>Statutory Notices Complied with.</i>
Housing.					
Houses Inspected under P.H.A. 	476	202	183	13	13
Re-inspections under P.H.A. 	456	—	—	—	—
Houses Inspected under Housing Acts ..	807	18	16	—	—
Re-inspections under Housing Acts ..	34	—	—	—	—
General.					
Refuse Collection and Disposal 	235	—	—	—	—
Infectious Disease ..	47	—	—	—	—
Water Supply ..	33	10	10	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	19	—	—	—	—
Stables and Piggeries ..	13	—	—	—	—
Smoke Observations ..	22	1	1	—	—
Public Conveniences ..	3	—	—	—	—
Factories and Work- places 	25	3	3	—	—
Shop Acts 	1	—	—	—	—
Petroleum Acts ..	12	3	3	—	—
Special Visits 	98	—	—	—	—
Rats and Mice Destruc- tion 	26	22	22	—	—
Diphtheria Immunisa- tion 	288	—	—	—	—
Meat and Food Inspection.					
Slaughterhouse ..	11	—	—	—	—
Butchers' Shops and Stalls 	23	2	2	—	—
Wet Fish Shops ..	13	—	—	—	—
Fried Fish Shops ..	4	1	1	—	—
Other Food Shops ..	36	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses 	23	1	1	—	—
Restaurant Kitchens ..	18	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Premises ..	29	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops 	197	6	6	—	—
	<hr/> 2949	<hr/> 269	<hr/> 248	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 13

All Statutory Notices served during the year were complied with making it unnecessary to take any legal proceedings.

COMPLAINTS

One hundred and seventeen complaints were received with reference to the following matters, viz. :—

Defective Conditions	37
Choked and Defective Drains.. .. .	14
Overflowing Cesspool	1
Accumulations of Refuse	13
Defective Dustbins	3
Sanitary Accommodation	3
Offensive Odours	12
Smoke Nuisances	3
Rats and Mice Infestations	10
Verminous Premises etc.	2
Dirty Condition of Food Bins	1
Unsound Food	4
Milk—Adulteration and Souring	4
Flooding	5
Insanitary Condition of Ditches	3
Keeping of Animals	2

117

All complaints were investigated immediately and the necessary action taken to remove the cause of any nuisance found.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Infectious Disease.

The number of cases of infectious disease after which the Medical Officer of Health considered disinfection necessary was very small. Seven premises only were disinfected during the year.

Verminous Premises.

Forty rooms in 17 houses were treated by various methods for the destruction of insect pests. In three cases the verminous conditions were due to bed bugs, and the treatment appears to have been successful as no further complaints have been received. In addition, one pond was sprayed with D.D.T. in paraffin for the destruction of mosquitoes and their larvae.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Owing to the absence of sewers in some of the outlying parts of the district, mainly in Morley and Styal, there are still a number of sanitary conveniences in use which are not on the water carriage system.

The following list shows the number of sanitary conveniences (other than water closets) in use today in the various wards, namely :—

<i>Ward.</i>	<i>Earth Closets.</i>		<i>Privies.</i>	
	<i>No. of Closets.</i>	<i>No. of Premises.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>No. of Premises.</i>
Dean Row	18	15	8	11
Fulshaw	2	2	21	25
Handforth	5	5	27	29
Hough	11	11	6	6
Morley	94	87	14	25
Styal	131	118	1	1

In addition there are also many houses in these areas which are served by a cesspool or septic tank. Although these premises appear to have all the advantages of a modern sewerage system the effluents, which are nearly always found to be unsatisfactory, are discharged into the nearest water course causing, in many instances, considerable pollution.

Whilst it would be a very costly matter to provide sewers in those areas where they are most needed, I hope the Council will not lose sight of the fact that there are about 250 houses which have been visited twice weekly since August, 1946, for the purpose of removing the pail contents, and there are also 77 ash pits which have to be emptied at regular intervals. The labour and haulage for this service at the present time is costing approximately £800 per annum.

HOUSING.

A considerable amount of time was spent during the year in making enquiries into applications for Council houses, in order to be able to advise the Council on the condition of the house, overcrowding, or any other matter affecting the health of the occupants. This work was particularly heavy on account of the large number of applications which had accumulated and required investigation in order to let the first post-war houses which were completed during 1946, to the most necessitous cases. Altogether about 800 individual enquiries were made into applications during the year.

No progress was made in connection with the clearance of the individual unfit houses which are still occupied, and owing to various restrictions very little repair work to existing properties was carried out.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat. No change has taken place in the position with regard to the slaughtering of animals for human consumption. Owing to the control exercised by the Government none of the ten slaughter-houses in the district is used, and all supplies of meat come from the Manchester abattoirs, where inspection takes place at time of slaughter.

Routine visits are paid, however, to butchers' shops, both to inspect the supplies and the cleanliness of the premises. There has been no cause for complaint regarding the quality of the meat supplied to this district during the year, and the butchers maintain a good standard of cleanliness generally. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the method of transporting the meat from the abattoir to the shops ; the condition of the vehicles and the clothing of the porters leave much to be desired, and it was necessary to draw the attention of the Ministry of Food to the unsatisfactory method of transport and handling. By the end of the year very little improvement had been effected.

As the result of complaints and inspections the following amounts of foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

<i>Home Killed</i>							<i>Weight lbs.</i>
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
Offal	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
<i>Imported</i>							
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	67½
							<hr/>
							1 cwt. 103½ lbs.

Tinned Goods Condemned :—

	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat	61
Fish	19¼
Fruit	26¼
Soups	22
Milk	61
Preserves and Pickles	28½
Cocoa	25
Vegetables	44¼
<hr/>	
2 cwt. 63¼ lbs.	
<hr/>	

Other Foods Condemned :—

	<i>cwt.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Potatoes		100
Raisins	2	20
Fish	3	37 $\frac{3}{4}$
Eggs		5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cereals	2	70 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fruit	8	91 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bacon		2
Flour	2	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sausages		3
Cheese		65
Butter and Margarine		70 $\frac{1}{2}$
Biscuits		4
Macaroni		56
Vegetables		7
Pudding Mixture		3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lemonade Powder		1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22	70
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total amount of foods condemned : 27 cwt. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

The number of certificates issued to butchers, grocers and other food retailers in respect of the various foodstuffs condemned by the Department was 79.

MILK SUPPLY

The number of cowkeepers and dairymen on the register in Wilmslow is as follows, namely :—

Cow-keepers	67
Dairymen	5
Retailers from outside districts	4

These premises have been inspected at least twice and some much more frequently for the purpose of ascertaining the condition under which the milk is produced, cooled and stored. In addition, samples were taken at least twice for bacteriological examination from all producers and retailers with a view to determining the degree of cleanliness reached by each particular producer.

There is no standard of cleanliness for non-designated milk, and therefore the results of the samples are not taken with a view to prosecution in the event of unsatisfactory results being obtained, but to strengthen the hand of the Inspector and bring home to the farmer the need for greater care and attention to cleanliness in the provision and handling of milk, a fact that cannot be decided upon by mere inspection alone.

It frequently happens that an unsatisfactory result is obtained from a farm where from all outward appearances great attention is paid to cleanliness and conversely from premises where one would expect to get an unsatisfactory sample, the milk is found to be very clean. In the latter case, of course, the farmer is still pressed to pay more attention to cleanliness even if several samples of his milk prove to be satisfactory.

From the tabulated results below it will be seen that there is room for considerable improvement in the cleanliness of milk produced by local farmers.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

<i>Designation</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>			<i>Classification</i>		
	<i>From Farms</i>	<i>From Dairies</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested ..	4	—	4	2	—	2
Accredited	72	1	73	34	10	29
Ungraded	77	6	83	45	8	30
Total ..	153	7	160	81	18	61

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS

1936-1946

Pasteurised Milk.

No change has taken place during the year with regard to the pasteurising establishment in the district. Although there is only one plant of the High Temperature Short Time type in the area, the tendency is for more milk to be pasteurised, and several small retailers are now obtaining their supplies, which are pasteurised, from this dairy.

Samples of milk from this plant and from other establishments outside the area are taken monthly. Every sample from the local plant was satisfactory from the cleanliness point of view, but two of the samples were under heat-treated. The bacteriological condition of samples taken in course of delivery in the district from the vehicles of firms who pasteurise outside the area, were unsatisfactory in five instances, and two of them were also insufficiently heat-treated. On the whole these results are much better than those of last year, and they may be regarded as satisfactory.

The following statement gives the results in tabular form :—

Pasteurised Milk

	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>From Local Dairy</i>		<i>From outside sources</i>	
		<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Bacterial Count or Methylene Blue Test	34	12	—	17	5
Phosphatase Test ..	34	10	2	20	2

Licences.

The number of licences issued by this Council in 1946 under the above Orders is as follows :—

Dealer's Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk..	..	2
Dealer's Licence to bottle Tuberculin Tested Milk	..	1
Licence to Pasteurise Milk	.. .. .	1
Dealer's Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk	.. ..	1
Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk	..	1

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

A total of 154 samples of milk was taken for examination for tuberculosis during the year, which means that every milk-producing herd in the district was sampled at least twice. The number of samples taken this year is nearly three times the number taken in 1945, when I was without any assistance for a considerable part of the year.

I consider it most important that these examinations should be continued, but I think it is sufficient if two samples per year are taken from each herd.

Because of the prevalence of tuberculosis in dairy herds, I think it is gratifying to note that out of 154 samples only three were found to be positive. It is strange that these samples were all taken from accredited herds of which every animal has to receive a periodical examination by a veterinary inspector.

When a positive result is obtained the facts are communicated immediately to the County Medical Officer of Health, whose duty it is to take the necessary steps to have the animal causing the infection to be removed. Arising out of the positive results, two animals were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

SUMMARY OF SAMPLES EXAMINED FOR TUBERCULOSIS

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken.</i>	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>	<i>Experiments Spoilt.</i>
Tuberculin Tested ..	4	Nil	4	Nil
Accredited	71	3	67	1
Ungraded	79	Nil	78	1
Totals ..	154	3	149	2

ICE CREAM.

The number of premises registered at the end of 1946 under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, to either manufacture or sell ice cream, was as follows :—

Number of premises where ice cream is manufactured	..	10
Number of premises where ice cream is retailed only	..	9

There is no legal standard for either the composition of ice cream or its bacteriological condition, but it was considered desirable that samples should be submitted for examination for cleanliness, in order to ascertain whether the ice cream which was being made or retailed in the locality was such that it was being offered for sale in a reasonably clean condition. Six samples of ice cream made in the district and two from outside sources were examined and five were found to be satisfactory and one unsatisfactory as regards cleanliness. The cause of the unsatisfactory sample was soon ascertained and remedied.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Although the Council were unable to secure a grant under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, it was decided to proceed with the extension of water mains along portions of the following lengths of road :—

	<i>Distance</i> (<i>Approx. yards</i>).
(1) Altrincham Road, Styal	2,286
(2) Prestbury Road, Wilmslow	363
(3) Newgate Road, Wilmslow	793
(4) Altrincham Road, Wilmslow (two separate lengths)	917
(5) Dean Row Road, Wilmslow (two separate lengths)	383
(6) Moss Lane, Styal	193
(7) Heyes Lane, Wilmslow	335

When these mains are laid, some of which will be done during 1947, every house and farm in the district will be within easy reach of a main water supply, with perhaps the exception of two farms and two cottages in very remote parts of the district.

During the year a further 13 houses were connected to the main leaving only 60 premises in the whole of the district dependent upon wells for their water supply.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The Council having decided not to accept delegation of powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, continue to act as Agents for the Cheshire County Council in this matter. The Chief Sanitary Inspector acts as their Rodent Officer for this area with respect to dwellings, shops and other non-agricultural premises, and one rat catcher is also employed whose services during 1946 were shared with the Cheadle and Gatley U.D.C. As the occupier of any premises or land is responsible for the destruction of these pests the cost of any treatment carried out by the Council's rat catcher is recovered from the occupier. Part of the rat catcher's time is spent in making surveys of property where it is considered

there may be a possibility of an infestation, and in all cases where rats or mice are found to exist the occupier is asked to either treat the premises himself or agree to allow the Council to carry out the disinfestation. During 1946 the rat catcher paid 634 visits to premises and carried out the following works :—

Number of Premises treated	39
Methods employed—Poisoning :	
No. of pre-baits laid ..	1,612
No. of poison baits laid ..	443
Gassing :	
No. of points gassed ..	10
Trapping :	
No. of cases where traps used	Nil.
Results obtained : No. of bodies found	145

Income for Treatment.

The amounts recoverable from occupiers for the above work up to the end of the year was £110 10s. 0d.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection. For the collection of house refuse two vehicles are used and each tows a trailer, in which salvaged materials are placed. It was not possible during the year to effect any improvement in the period of collection. An attempt to maintain a fortnightly removal of house refuse and salvage was made, but owing to the difficulty of obtaining labour of the casual or permanent type, and the absence of any reserve vehicle to cover breakdowns, overhauls, etc., delays were inevitable, and at certain periods throughout the year the period of collection had to be extended.

One improvement, however, in the collection of refuse was made during the year when the Council decided to have the pail closets in the Styal and Morley areas emptied twice weekly instead of weekly, as had been the practice hitherto. This service has been very much appreciated by the residents concerned.

Disposal. All the house refuse from the whole of the district, including that from the R.A.F. Camp, is disposed of by tipping at the Newgate Road Refuse Tip, where 38½ acres of peat land has been acquired for this purpose. The Air Ministry still continue to use part of the tip for the storage of wrecked aircraft.

Salvage. Certain materials which are considered to be “ waste ” by the householder, will, if separated, provide the local authority with an income which is far in excess of the additional expenditure required to handle the materials. A long period between collections

is not helpful to a salvage scheme as householders object to having quantities of materials lying about for long periods awaiting collection, and the tendency is for them to lose interest and dispose of these valuable materials by burning or other means. In spite of our collection difficulties, the tonnage sold and the amount received for the salvage year 1946-47 was increased, an occurrence which has not happened since 1942-43, when, I think, everyone was more salvage minded.

Many of the materials such as paper, rags, bottles, jars, tins, bones, etc., of which there is still too much placed in the dust-bin, are today very valuable as the figures for 1946-47 show, when the total weight of all materials sold was 269 tons and the income £1,523, an average of over £5 12s. 0d. per ton.

STAFF.

One change only took place in the staff during the year. Mrs. G. E. Bennett, temporary shorthand-typist resigned in April, 1946, and Miss M. Fletcher returned as the permanent typist after four years' service in the W.A.A.F.

My thanks are due to Mr. Tremethick and Miss Fletcher for their able assistance during the year, and to my colleagues in other departments for their willing co-operation at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. H. LANCASTER,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Printed by
The Bollin Press
Lacey Green
Wilmslow
Tel. 3039